

PATENT
TH0681N (US)
DFH:EM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)	
)	
DAVID M. SINGLETON, LOUIS KRAVETZ,)	Confirmation No.: 0-45
BRENDAN D. MURRAY)	
)	
Serial No. 09/655,964)	Group Art Unit: 1796
)	
Filed September 6, 2000)	Examiner: Necholus Ogden Jr.
)	
HIGHLY BRANCHED PRIMARY ALCOHOL)	November 23, 2009
COMPOSITIONS, AND BIODEGRADABLE)	
<u>DETERGENTS MADE THEREFROM</u>)	

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

REMARKS

In related copending application Serial No. 11/748,976, filed May 15, 2007, the Examiner stated that Hunter “lacks a specific teaching with sufficient specificity with respect to the branching proportions” but concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to expect similar characteristics and properties from the sulfated alcohols of Hunter “because they are the same compounds but different isomers.” Similarly, the Examiner stated that “Grifo lacks a specific teaching with sufficient specificity with respect to the branching proportions and the position of said branching” but concluded that it also would have been obvious to expect similar characteristics and properties from the sulfated alcohols of Grifo “because they are the same compounds but different isomers.” In re Payne, 606 F.2d 303, 203 USPQ 245, is quoted: “An obviousness rejection based on similarity in chemical structure and function entails the motivation of one skilled in the art to make a chemical compound, in the expectation that compounds similar in structure will have similar properties.”